

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 USSS-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 /091 W
-----059391 201054Z /10

O 201035Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8079
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
MAC SCOTT AF BASE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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DEPARTMENT PASS FAA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ASEC, JA

SUBJECT: NARITA OPENING CEREMONY

REF: TOKYO 8951

SUMMARY: NARITA AIRPORT OFFICIALLY OPENED 1030 MAY 20 WITH BRIEF CEREMONY LED BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION FUKUNAGA. EARLIER SAME MORNING, ANTI-NARITA SABOTEURS DISRUPTED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL RADIO AND RADAR COMMUNICATIONS, FORCING TWO-HOUR GROUNDING OF FLIGHTS NATIONWIDE (EXCEPT FOR DEPARTURES OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI FOR PEKING AND EMPEROR HIROHITO FOR SHIKOKU). MOST OF NEARLY 7,000 ANTI-AIRPORT DEMONSTRATORS WHO STAGED RALLY ON OUTSKIRTS OF NARITA AIRPORT AFTERNOON MAY 20 DISPERSED PEACEFULLY BY 1700, BUT POSSIBILITY OF CLASH BETWEEN 13,000 POLICE GUARDING AIRPORT AND RADICALS STILL IN AREA REMAINS. FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT NARITA SCHEDULED TO BEGIN 0610 MAY 21 (1710 MAY 20 WASHINGTON TIME). END SUMMARY.

1. AMID CONTINUING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SABOTAGE OF AIR TRAFFIC-RELATED FACILITIES ELSEWHERE IN JAPAN, OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIES FOR NARITA AIRPORT WERE HELD 1030 MAY 20. TRANSPORTATION MINISTER FUKUNAGA MADE UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCE AT 30 MINUTE SHINTO CEREMONY WHICH MARKED OFFICIAL OPENING, AND IN PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS SAID THAT WHILE FIRST RUNWAY OF NEW AIRPORT WOULD BEGIN OPERATIONS FOLLOWING DAY, CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL RUN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAYS WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH ANTI-AIRPORT GROUPS CAN BE FOUND.

2. BEGINNING 0540 MAY 20, ALL AIR TRAFFIC IN CENTRAL JAPAN WAS GROUNDED FOR TWO HOURS AFTER ANTI-NARITA SABOTEURS CUT TELEPHONE CABLES LINKING TOKYO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER IN TOKOROZAWA WHICH CONTROLS ALL CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC OVER JAPAN, WITH RADAR STATIONS AND WITH HANEDA AIRPORT. AS RESULT, TOKYO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS LOST BOTH RADAR CONTACT AND RADIO COMMUNICATION WITH AIRCRAFT IN AIR OVER CENTRAL JAPAN AND WESTERN PACIFIC AIR CORRIDORS FOR 10 MINUTES. ALTHOUGH BACKUP MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM RESTORED RADIO CONTACT WITH INCOMING FLIGHTS, RADAR REMAINED OUT UNTIL 0800. DURING INTERVAL, OUTGOING FLIGHTS ACROSS COUNTRY WERE GROUNDED, AND INTERVAL BETWEEN INCOMING FLIGHTS WERE LENGTHENED TO LESSEN RISK OF MID-AIR COLLISIONS. HOWEVER, DAMAGE TO TELEPHONE CABLES WAS REPAIRED MID-MORNING, AND BY EARLY AFTERNOON, NORMAL FLIGHT OPERATIONS HAD RESUMED. AS RESULT OF INCIDENT, MORE THAN 100 FLIGHTS, MOSTLY DOMESTIC, WERE CANCELLED, BUT NO ACCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. MIDDLE CORE FACTION (CHUKAKUHA), ONE OF MAJOR RADICAL GROUPS

OPPOSING NARITA AIRPORT, CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR
CUTTING TELEPHONE CABLES.

3. MASS DEMONSTRATION OF ANTI-AIRPORT GROUPS BEGAN 1030
IN NARITA CITY PARK. POLICE ESTIMATED 6,950 DEMONSTRATORS
(5,300 FROM RADICAL GROUPS, REMAINDER FROM LABOR, FARMER
AND OTHER GROUPS) TURNED OUT TO HEAR ANTI-AIRPORT MOVE-
MENT LEADER ISAKU TOMURA ANNOUNCE THAT CUTTING OF TELE-
PHONE CABLES TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER DEMONSTRATED
OPPOSITIONISTS COULD CUTOFF AIRPORT COMMUNICATIONS, TRANS-
PORTATION, AND WATER AT WILL. TOMURA VOWED HIS MOVEMENT
WOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO BLOCK OPENING OF NEW AIRPORT.
FOLLOWING RALLY, GROUP MARCHED TO NARITA AIRPORT AND
FOLLOWING ANOTHER RALLY AT 1500, DEMONSTRATORS DISPERSED
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PEACEFULLY AT 1700. HOWEVER, POLICE SOURCES REPORTED
SMALL GROUPS OF RADICALS CARRYING MOLOTOV COCKTAILS
REMAINED IN AIRPORT VICINITY, AND SAID POSSIBILITY OF
VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN RADICALS AND 13,000 POLICE GUARDING
AIRPORT REMAINS STRONG.

4. ONLY VIOLENT INCIDENT REPORTED AS OF 1700 WAS BRIEF
ASSAULT ON NARITA AIRPORT FIFTH GATE BY TWENTY HELMETED
RADICALS HURLING FIREBOMBS AT 1205. POLICE STATIONED AT
GATE TURNED BACK CHARGE AND ARRESTED FOUR ATTACKERS. ONLY
SMALL TRUCK PARKED NEAR GATE WAS DAMAGED.

5. DESPITE INCIDENTS, FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT NARITA WILL
COMMENCE ON SCHEDULE MAY 21 WITH ARRIVAL OF JAL CARGO
FLIGHT AT 0610. MANSFIELD

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